Environmental Quality Incentives Program
Water Quality and Soil Health Screening Tool

Introduction

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Water Quality and Soil Health Screening Tool provides a method to screen EQIP applications. The tool is intended to be used prior to ranking EQIP applications as a way to screen out applications that are medium or low priority so time is not spent ranking EQIP applications that may not be funded. The screening process is a two part process. The first part is to digitize and assign Program Contracts System (ProTracts) generated application numbers to all Water Quality and Soil Health EQIP applications. A set of digitizing and attribution tools will be used to complete this part. The second part which occurs after all applications have been added into the screening boundary dataset will be done at the state office. The applications each management unit (MU) has digitized will be copied to the state office and grouped by ranking category of EQIP Water Quality and EQIP Soil Health. Each application within a ranking category will be assigned a priority of High, Medium, or Low. The state office will provide one report for each ranking category to the area office and MU office. The reports will include the priority ranking status for each application in the ranking category for the MU.

Opening the Screening Map Document

The Kansas Conservation Programs Geographic Information System (GIS) Interface (CPGI) Screening toolbar has been added to accommodate development of EQIP application boundaries for screening. The toolbar consists of 8 tools that allow a user to digitize or copy land units from another source, such as the Common Land Units (CLU) boundaries, attribute the digitized boundaries with the application information, and delete applications from the screening boundaries dataset.

Editing

Select Land Unit

Land Unit

Copy Land Unit

Stop Editing

Draw Land Unit

Attribute Land Units

Delete Application

1. Open the EQIP Screening.mxd file by using Windows Explorer to browse to the f:\geodata\project_data\nrcs\NRCS_Programs_Data directory and double clicking on the EQIP_Screening.mxd file.

2. Right click in the grey area at the top of the ArcMap document, then go down to Kansas CPGI Screening and left click on it to turn the EQIP screening digitizing tools on.

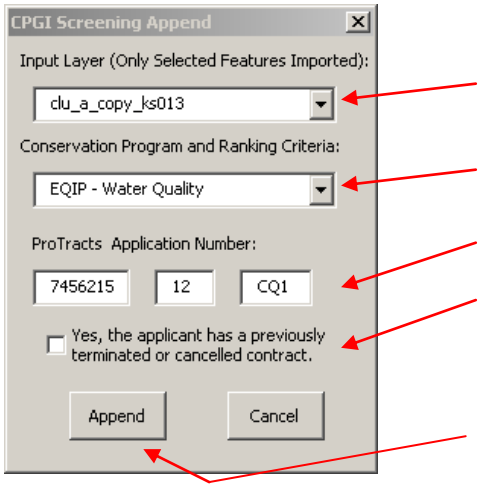
3. Using the Kansas Load L data tool, load the CLUs and PLSS data themes for the county you will be digitizing EQIP applications for.

4. Zoom into the application area. This can be done using the zoom tool to zoom to a legal description or a tract number.

Copying Boundaries into the EQIP Screening layer

If you have CLU boundaries that match the application area for EQIP you can:

1. Use the Select Land Unit button in the Kansas CPGI Screening tool bar to select CLU boundaries from the CLU layer that represent the application boundaries for the EQIP application.
2. Click on the copy land unit button to copy the selected CLU boundaries into the EQIP screening boundaries dataset. Fill out the CPGI Screening Append form



Select the layer to copy the boundaries

Select the Ranking Criteria.

Enter a Protracts application number.

Check the box if the applicant has a previously terminated or cancelled

Click the append button to copy the boundaries into the screening dataset.

Digitizing New Boundaries into the EQIP Screening layer

If you do not have CLU boundaries that accurately represent the application area then the user will have to digitize the boundaries in using the tools in the Kansas CPGI screening tool bar.

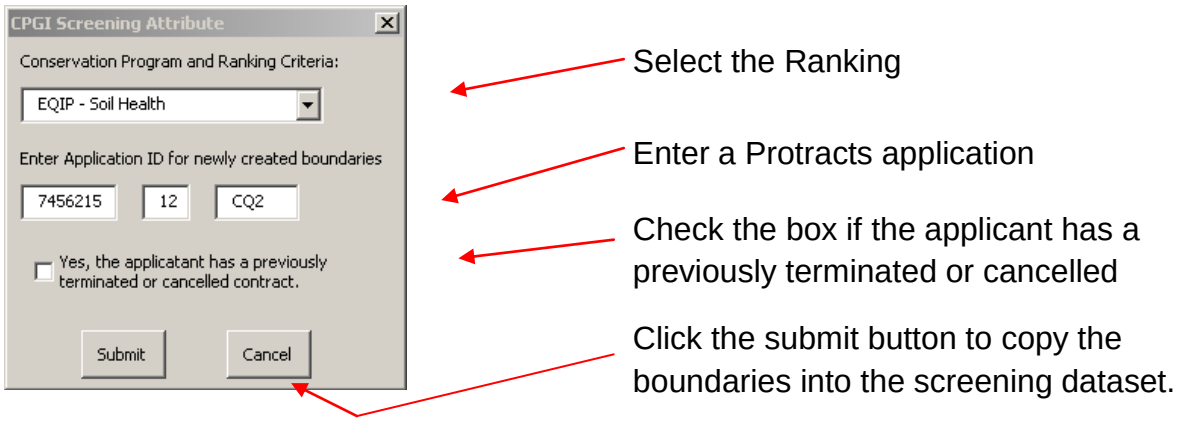
1. Once you have zoomed in and are ready to start digitizing, click on the button in the Kansas CPGI screening toolbar. **Make sure you click on the start editing tool in the Kansas CPGI Screening toolbar not the Toolkit toolbar**.

2. Click on the Land Unit digitizing button to add an application boundary into the Screening boundary dataset. This tool functions the same as the Toolkit add field button so you should be familiar with the characteristics of this digitizing tool.

If a land unit needs to be split, use the Split Land Unit tool on the Kansas CPGI screening toolbar to split a selected land unit. Again, this tool functions the same as the Toolkit Split Land Unit tool.

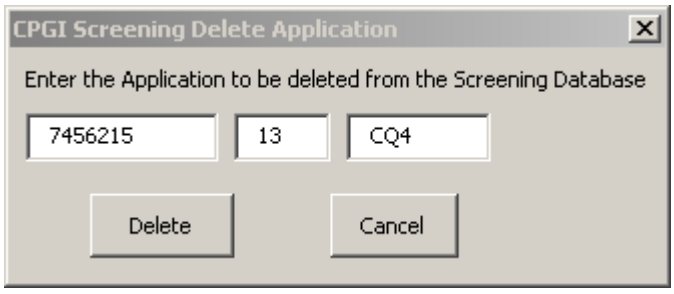
3. Once all of the land units have been digitized in for an application area click on the stop editing button.

4. Using the Select Land Unit button select **all** land units associated (**make sure all land units for the application area are selected)** with the EQIP application area and click the Attribute Land Units button. Fill out the CPGI Screening Attribute form.



Deleting Applications from the EQIP Screening layer

1. Click the Delete Application button.

2. Enter the Application you want to delete in the CPGI Screening Delete Application dialog box.

3. Click the Delete button.